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Minnesota Labor Market Review

April 1988 Supplement

Nation

Unemployment Rate Falls Again But Payroll Employment Rise Is Very Small

The nation's seasonally adjusted civilian unemployment rate edged down to 5.6 percent in March from 5.7 percent in February. March's rate was the lowest since May 1979 and was well under the 6.5 percent of March 1987. However, seasonally adjusted nonfarm payroll employment rose by only 262,000 in March after a very large increase of 517,000 in February. Gains of 79,000 in construction and 83,000 in the services industry accounted for much of the March increase in payroll employment. Meanwhile, employment in manufacturing, which had been growing a little more slowly in each month since November, fell slightly in March.

Most Other Indicators Show Healthy Economy In March

Except for industrial production which rose by only 0.1 percent in March after no change in February, most other economic indicators showed moderate to strong growth in March. Both retail sales and personal income increased by 0.8 percent in March while personal spending climbed by 0.7 percent. Also, housing starts rose for the second month in a row.

State

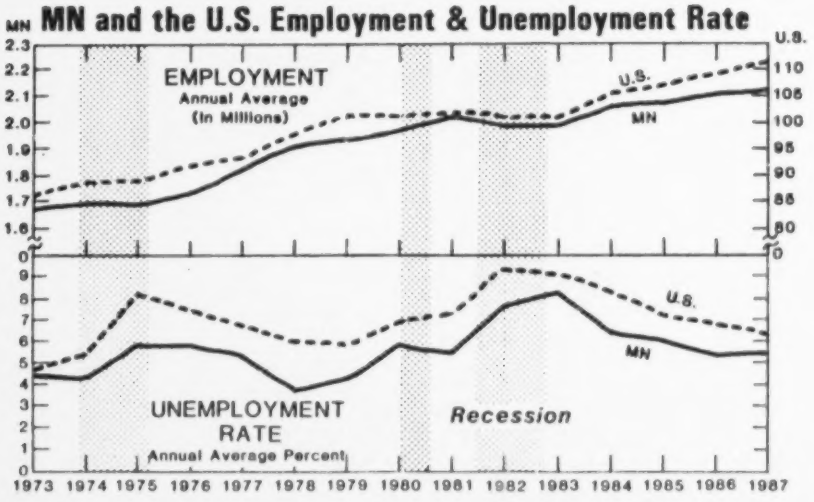
Unemployment Rate Drops Sharply; Payroll Employment Rises Modestly

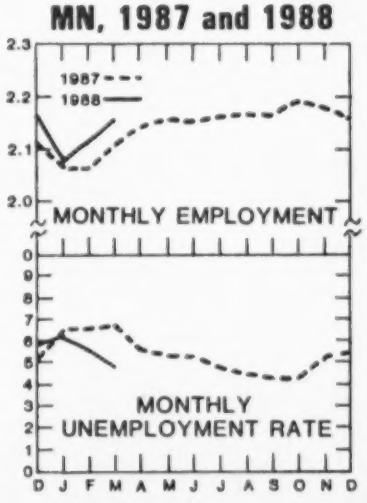
Minnesota's seasonally unadjusted unemployment rate fell from 5.6 percent in February to 4.8 percent in March. Although the March decline was the steepest on record, part of the drop may have been due to statistical error. The rate was 6.8 percent in March 1987.

Meanwhile, seasonally adjusted nonfarm employment rose by a less than average 3,200 in March after a smaller gain of 2,800 in February. The largest March employment advances were in the services industry (1,770), construction (1,420), and trade (990). Employment in construction had fallen in January and February. The manufacturing sector which had shown strength in the second half of 1987 experienced a small decline in March after a weak gain in February. Employment in metal mining fell for the third straight month in March. Over the year, payroll employment rose by 57,500. Over one-third of the 12 month gain took place in the services industry, particularly in business, health and social services. Large over-the-year employment increases also occurred in manufacturing and trade.

Labor Force Estimates

	MINNESOTA (Numbers in Thousands)			UNITED STATES (Numbers in Millions)		
	Mar. 1988	Change From Last Mo.	Change From Year Ago	Mar. 1988	Change From Last Mo.	Change From Year Ago
Civilian Labor Force	2,266.3	24.9	48.9	120.0	0.0	1.6
Employed	2,157.2	40.2	89.6	112.9	0.4	2.6
Unemployed	109.1	-15.3	-40.7	7.1	-0.4	-1.0
Unemployment Rate						
Actual	4.8	-0.8	-2.0	5.9	0.7	-1.0
Seasonally Adjusted	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	5.6	-0.1	-0.9





Minnesota Nonagricultural Wage & Salary Employment, Hours & Earnings

INDUSTRY	EMPLOYMENT1/ (thousands)			PERCENT CHANGE FROM		PRODUCTION WORKERS' HOURS & EARNINGS2/					
						Average Weekly Earnings		Av. Hourly Earnings		Average Weekly Hrs.	
	Mar. 1988	Feb. 1988	Mar. 1987	Feb. 1988	Mar. 1987	Mar. 1988	Mar. 1987	Mar. 1988	Mar. 1987	Mar. 1988	Mar. 1987
Total Nonagricultural	**1,964.3**	**1,955.0**	**1,906.6**	**0.5**	**3.0**	-	-	-	-	-	-
Manufacturing	**378.7**	**377.7**	**366.5**	**0.3**	**3.3**	**418.72**	**423.69**	**10.39**	**10.41**	**40.3**	**40.7**
Durable Goods	225.8	225.2	217.0	0.3	4.1	439.25	453.88	10.61	10.73	41.4	42.3
Lumber and Furniture	21.8	21.5	19.3	1.7	13.0	431.65	499.03	11.48	11.91	37.6	41.9
Stone, Clay and Glass	7.4	7.2	7.2	2.3	3.1	381.58	417.64	10.23	10.52	37.3	39.7
Primary Metals	6.8	6.8	6.3	-0.2	8.0	440.83	409.84	9.71	9.40	45.4	43.6
Fabricated Metals	33.9	34.0	32.5	-0.3	4.1	510.27	505.33	11.95	11.89	42.7	42.5
Nonelectrical Machinery	80.0	79.9	79.7	0.1	0.4	466.65	462.04	10.98	11.08	42.5	41.7
Office and Computing	38.3	38.7	40.3	-1.0	-4.9	509.13	512.13	11.39	11.91	44.7	43.0
Electrical Machinery	29.6	29.7	27.2	-0.3	8.7	352.37	375.41	8.45	8.65	41.7	43.4
Transportation Equipment	10.3	10.3	9.5	0.2	7.9	543.12	530.58	12.26	11.95	44.3	44.4
Scientific Instruments	30.6	30.5	29.9	0.4	2.5	410.86	423.85	10.07	10.02	40.8	42.3
Misc. Manufacturing	5.5	5.4	5.4	1.8	1.2	384.33	426.13	9.88	10.47	38.9	40.7
Nondurable Goods	152.9	152.5	149.5	0.3	2.3	392.11	387.22	10.08	9.98	38.9	38.8
Food and Kindred	43.8	44.0	42.9	-0.5	2.0	347.14	346.48	8.97	8.93	38.7	38.8
Textiles and Apparel	4.7	4.6	4.6	1.3	2.0	273.79	243.18	7.44	6.85	36.8	35.5
Paper and Allied	32.1	32.1	32.3	0.1	-0.5	491.52	480.28	11.93	11.49	41.2	41.8
Printing and Publishing	46.2	45.8	44.6	0.8	3.4	393.52	380.33	10.55	10.42	37.3	36.5
Chemicals and Petroleum	10.7	10.6	10.6	1.0	1.6	482.00	493.31	11.99	11.83	40.2	41.7
Rubber, Plastic & Leather	15.4	15.4	14.5	0.2	6.5	346.50	336.87	8.75	8.66	39.6	38.9
Nonmanufacturing	**1,585.6**	**1577.3**	**1540.1**	**0.5**	**2.9**	-	-	-	-	-	-
Mining	6.3	6.0	4.7	4.9	35.1	562.47	542.95	12.99	13.54	43.3	40.1
Metal Mining	5.0	4.9	3.4	3.4	48.2	593.57	594.16	13.74	14.78	43.2	40.2
Construction	64.5	62.6	65.2	3.1	-1.1	590.09	604.86	15.82	15.43	37.3	39.2
Transp., Comm., Pub. Util.	100.3	100.4	99.0	-0.1	1.4	-	-	-	-	-	-
Transportation	66.5	66.3	65.8	0.2	1.1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Trucking & Warehousing	25.5	25.5	25.8	0.1	-1.1	398.11	388.70	12.48	11.96	31.9	32.5
Comm. & Public Util.	33.3	34.1	33.2	-0.8	2.0	575.64	572.32	14.76	14.60	39.0	39.2
Trade	484.3	480.5	472.9	0.8	2.4	224.15	219.36	7.81	7.67	28.7	28.6
Wholesale	121.4	120.1	118.7	1.1	2.2	408.58	400.75	10.64	10.63	38.4	37.7
Retail	362.9	360.5	354.1	0.7	2.5	169.51	167.44	6.57	6.44	25.8	26.0
Building Materials	16.0	15.6	16.1	2.7	-0.3	300.11	314.28	8.43	8.73	35.6	36.0
General Merchandise	54.1	55.0	52.5	-1.7	3.0	142.83	130.38	6.21	5.62	23.0	23.2
Food Stores	49.4	49.2	47.2	0.3	4.6	190.01	193.59	7.09	7.17	26.8	27.0
Automotive	39.6	39.3	38.4	0.8	3.0	309.87	301.55	8.93	8.33	34.7	36.2
Apparel	19.1	19.1	18.6	-0.1	2.4	111.78	117.25	5.40	5.12	20.7	22.9
Home Furnishings	16.7	16.7	15.8	0.0	5.8	226.44	210.53	7.40	7.21	30.6	29.2
Eating and Drinking	120.4	117.8	118.4	2.2	1.6	105.38	98.41	4.79	4.62	22.0	21.3
Fin., Insur., Real Estate	122.0	121.6	118.0	0.3	3.4						
Finance	56.8	56.4	54.9	0.6	3.4						
Insurance	45.4	45.3	43.5	0.2	4.2						
Real Estate	19.9	19.9	19.6	0.0	1.5						
Services	481.5	478.3	460.4	0.7	4.6						
Personal Services	25.4	25.3	24.7	0.5	2.7						
Business Services	94.3	93.5	86.2	0.9	9.3						
Repair Services	20.1	19.9	19.4	0.8	3.5						
Health Services	151.6	151.0	147.3	0.4	3.0						
Hospitals	52.1	51.9	50.7	0.3	2.9						
Nursing Homes	41.1	41.0	41.5	0.1	-1.1						
Legal Services	14.6	14.5	13.8	0.8	5.5						
Private Education	26.7	26.3	26.7	1.7	-0.1						
Government	326.6	327.8	320.0	-0.4	2.1						
Federal	33.8	33.7	32.8	0.3	3.2						
State	81.3	82.7	79.7	-1.6	2.0						
Education	44.9	46.5	44.6	-3.4	0.9						
Local	211.5	211.5	207.5	0.0	1.9						
Education	117.5	117.0	115.5	0.4	1.7						

1/ Totals may not add because of rounding.

2/ Average earnings data are on a "gross" basis and are derived from reports of payroll for full-time and part-time production or non-supervisory workers. The payroll is reported before deductions of any kind. Bonuses, retroactive pay, tips, payment in kind, and "fringe benefits" are excluded.

Minneapolis–St. Paul MSA

By Kevin Alaspa

Unemployment Declines In March

Both the number and percentage of unemployed declined more than usual in the Minneapolis-St. Paul metropolitan statistical area. Normally, these figures do not decrease until April; however, favorable weather in March enabled seasonal activity such as construction work to begin earlier this year.

Total nonagricultural wage and salary employment rose by 3,700 in March. Increases took place mostly in construction, eating and drinking establishments and the services sector, particularly in business services. Only a small gain occurred in manufacturing, and virtually no change was evident in the retail trade sector. Other industry groups posted only small increases or decreases.

The Overall Employment Picture Reflects Improvements Since Last Year

Year-ago comparisons of unemployment claims and industry employment show how the labor market has improved. Initial claims for unemployment insurance declined by 25 percent from the level in March 1987, which is a reflection of the economic health of most businesses in the metropolitan area. Total nonagricultural wage and salary employment was three percent above the level of a year ago, which represents a total job gain of 38,800 workers. Manufacturing employment, which has been stagnant or declining in particular areas of the country, has increased three percent in the Twin Cities metropolitan area since last year. While certain types of durable and consumer goods manufacturing have experienced job losses in recent years, newer firms, often producing technologically advanced, specialized products, continue to provide new employment opportunities. These developments have resulted in a 25 percent decrease in total estimated unemployment since March 1987.

All these factors reflect a strong economy in the Twin Cities metropolitan area, and would indicate favorable conditions in the upcoming months. Seasonal work got off to a good start this spring, and signs point to further gains as other industries add workers after the winter months.

Labor Force Estimates

AREA	EMPLOYMENT			UNEMPLOYMENT			UNEMP. RATE		
	Mar. 1988	Feb. 1988	Mar. 1987	Mar. 1988	Feb. 1988	Mar. 1987	Mar. 1988	Feb. 1988	Mar. 1987
Mpls.-St.Paul MSA*	1,302,993	1,285,679	1,257,647	50,514	57,593	67,207	3.7	4.3	5.1
REGION 11	1,224,262	1,207,798	1,181,170	44,734	50,635	59,963	3.5	4.0	4.8
Anoka	122,668	121,019	118,351	5,355	6,218	7,086	4.2	4.9	5.6
Carver	22,499	22,196	21,707	919	1,113	1,242	3.9	4.8	5.4
Dakota	129,016	127,281	124,475	5,145	6,063	7,055	3.8	4.5	5.4
Hennepin	589,010	581,089	568,278	19,585	21,592	25,747	3.2	3.6	4.3
Ramsey	266,210	262,630	256,840	9,558	10,635	13,339	3.5	3.9	4.9
Scott	26,468	26,112	25,536	1,520	1,885	2,050	5.4	6.7	7.4
Washington	68,391	67,471	65,983	2,652	3,129	3,344	3.7	4.4	4.8
Chisago	13,412	13,231	12,940	1,181	1,416	1,601	8.1	9.7	11.0
Isanti	11,566	11,411	11,159	733	969	1,134	6.0	7.8	9.2
Wright	30,621	30,209	29,543	2,409	2,837	2,898	7.3	8.6	8.9
St. Croix, WI	23,132	23,030	22,635	1,457	1,736	1,711	5.9	7.0	7.0
Bloomington	55,515	54,768	53,561	1,721	1,951	2,165	3.0	3.4	3.9
Minneapolis	205,367	202,605	198,139	7,496	8,067	10,097	3.5	3.8	4.8
St. Paul	141,327	139,426	136,352	5,825	6,415	8,331	4.0	4.4	5.8

* Chisago, Isanti and Wright counties are a part of the Minneapolis-St. Paul MSA, and are also included in Region 7.

Note: Add employment and unemployment to calculate civilian labor force.

Mpls.–St. Paul Nonagricultural Wage & Salary Employment, Hours & Earnings

INDUSTRY	EMPLOYMENT1/ (thousands)			PERCENT CHANGE FROM		PRODUCTION WORKERS' HOURS & EARNINGS2/					
						Average Weekly Earnings		Av. Hourly Earnings		Average Weekly Hrs.	
	Mar. 1988	Feb. 1988	Mar. 1987	Feb. 1988	Mar. 1987	Mar. 1988	Mar. 1987	Mar. 1988	Mar. 1987	Mar. 1988	Mar. 1987
Total Nonagricultural	**1291.8**	**1288.1**	**1253.0**	**0.3**	**3.1**	-	-	-	-	-	-
Manufacturing	**257.8**	**257.4**	**249.9**	**0.2**	**3.1**	**451.77**	**455.33**	**11.10**	**11.16**	**40.7**	**40.8**
Durable Goods	161.1	160.7	155.2	0.2	3.8	467.32	472.78	11.18	11.23	41.8	42.1
Lumber and Furniture	9.3	9.2	8.9	1.0	4.7	462.64	548.44	12.37	12.55	37.4	43.7
Stone, Clay and Glass	3.1	3.0	2.8	3.2	11.9	462.48	473.89	11.62	12.57	39.8	37.7
Primary Metals	4.9	4.9	4.7	0.6	4.9	442.22	409.73	9.51	9.27	46.5	44.2
Fabricated Metals	26.2	26.1	25.5	0.2	2.8	533.41	537.93	12.64	12.51	42.2	43.0
Nonelectrical Machinery	63.4	63.3	62.2	0.2	2.0	485.74	464.26	11.27	11.16	43.1	41.6
Office and Computing	31.9	31.9	32.1	-0.2	-0.6	489.86	466.05	10.91	11.07	44.9	42.1
Electrical Machinery	16.8	17.0	15.0	-1.0	12.5	353.33	365.02	8.90	9.08	39.7	40.2
Transportation Equipment	5.8	5.8	5.5	-0.3	5.1	721.83	712.43	15.49	14.75	46.6	48.3
Scientific Instruments	28.4	28.3	27.5	0.3	3.0	418.18	431.18	10.30	10.34	40.6	41.7
Misc. Manufacturing	3.2	3.2	3.2	2.2	1.3	426.89	443.76	10.89	10.32	39.2	43.0
Nondurable Goods	96.7	96.6	94.8	0.0	2.0	430.02	430.62	10.97	11.07	39.2	38.9
Food and Kindred	18.1	18.3	18.2	-1.2	-0.6	455.26	420.42	11.05	10.59	41.2	39.7
Textiles and Apparel	2.1	2.0	2.0	3.6	5.3	260.48	241.69	7.04	6.77	37.0	35.7
Paper and Allied	25.0	24.9	25.1	0.2	-0.6	456.74	451.07	11.39	11.11	40.1	40.6
Printing and Publishing	31.9	31.8	31.0	0.3	2.9	400.34	414.00	10.82	11.50	37.0	36.0
Chemicals and Petroleum	9.0	8.9	8.9	1.5	0.7	541.31	553.14	13.30	13.17	40.7	42.0
Rubber, Plastic & Leather	10.7	10.8	9.6	-0.8	11.5	396.32	391.82	9.81	9.82	40.4	39.9
Nonmanufacturing	**1034.0**	**1030.7**	**1003.1**	**0.3**	**3.1**	-	-	-	-	-	-
Mining	0.5	0.5	0.6	4.8	-17.8	208.78	208.78	8.03	8.03	26.0	26.0
Construction	45.7	44.6	44.9	2.3	1.8	621.05	636.00	16.74	16.96	37.1	37.5
Transp., Comm., Pub. Util.	70.5	71.1	68.8	-0.7	2.5	-	-	-	-	-	-
Transportation	48.2	48.3	47.6	-0.1	1.3	-	-	-	-	-	-
Trucking & Warehousing	15.8	15.9	15.8	-0.7	-0.3	381.21	365.64	13.10	12.74	29.1	28.7
Comm. & Public Util.	22.3	22.8	21.2	-2.1	5.3	578.89	566.57	14.73	14.38	39.3	39.4
Trade	316.0	315.0	307.0	0.3	2.9	249.10	238.75	8.56	8.29	29.1	28.7
Wholesale	85.5	84.6	81.5	1.1	5.0	437.19	430.51	11.21	11.27	39.0	38.2
Retail	230.5	230.5	225.5	0.0	2.2	188.55	179.75	7.28	6.94	25.9	25.9
Building Materials	9.8	9.8	9.5	0.2	4.0	315.63	338.88	9.45	9.60	33.4	35.3
General Merchandise	38.4	39.2	38.3	-2.1	0.1	152.46	148.76	6.46	5.88	23.6	25.3
Food Stores	26.8	27.0	27.1	-0.7	-1.2	239.80	238.00	8.72	8.50	27.5	28.0
Automotive	23.3	23.2	22.3	0.5	4.4	363.20	344.61	10.26	9.39	35.4	36.7
Apparel	12.6	12.6	12.4	-0.1	2.1	106.08	110.56	5.44	5.29	19.5	20.9
Home Furnishings	11.6	11.7	11.1	-0.8	4.5	229.37	176.85	7.57	6.55	30.3	27.0
Eating and Drinking	77.2	75.9	75.7	1.6	1.9	121.98	103.29	5.47	4.99	22.3	20.7
Fin., Insur., Real Estate	95.4	95.3	91.8	0.1	3.9	-	-	-	-	-	-
Finance	41.5	41.2	39.1	0.7	6.2	-	-	-	-	-	-
Insurance	37.9	38.0	36.6	-0.2	3.6	-	-	-	-	-	-
Real Estate	16.0	16.1	16.2	-0.6	-1.0						
Services	325.5	323.9	314.3	0.5	3.6						
Personal Services	17.9	17.8	17.8	0.5	0.5						
Business Services	79.5	78.8	75.1	0.9	5.8						
Repair Services	15.1	15.0	14.5	0.5	3.8						
Health Services	85.3	85.3	83.4	0.0	2.3						
Hospitals	30.7	30.8	30.4	-0.3	1.2						
Nursing Homes	22.1	22.0	22.0	0.4	0.4						
Legal Services	11.5	11.4	10.9	0.5	5.2						
Private Education	16.2	16.1	16.3	0.3	-0.9						
Government	180.4	180.3	175.7	0.0	2.6						
Federal	20.7	20.7	19.8	0.2	4.6						
State	55.1	55.2	52.8	-0.2	4.4						
Education	30.6	30.9	29.3	-1.0	4.3						
Local	104.6	104.5	103.2	0.1	1.4						
Education	57.7	57.5	56.8	0.4	1.7						

1/ Totals may not add because of rounding.

2/ Average earnings data are on a "gross" basis and are derived from reports of payroll for full-time and part-time production or non-supervisory workers. The payroll is reported before deductions of any kind. Bonuses, retroactive pay, tips, payment in kind, and "fringe benefits" are excluded.

Central and Northwest Minnesota

Labor Force Estimates

AREA	EMPLOYMENT			UNEMPLOYMENT			UNEMP. RATE		
	Mar. 1988	Feb. 1988	Mar. 1987	Mar. 1988	Feb. 1988	Mar. 1987	Mar. 1988	Feb. 1988	Mar. 1987
St. Cloud MSA*	89,288	88,663	83,371	5,351	6,163	6,837	5.7	6.5	7.6
REGION 1	38,430	37,089	35,796	4,030	4,545	4,890	9.5	10.9	12.0
Kittson	2,273	2,189	2,096	284	311	385	11.1	12.4	15.5
Marshall	4,180	3,963	3,918	868	991	1,005	17.2	20.0	20.4
Norman	3,284	3,174	3,075	330	373	374	9.1	10.5	10.8
Pennington	5,798	5,638	5,432	640	743	816	9.9	11.6	13.1
Polk	13,744	13,392	13,023	1,143	1,249	1,459	7.7	8.5	10.1
Red Lake	1,355	1,250	1,250	299	333	410	18.1	21.0	24.7
Roseau	7,796	7,483	7,002	466	545	441	5.6	6.8	5.9
REGION 2	27,191	26,385	25,721	2,825	3,167	3,796	9.4	10.7	12.9
Beltrami	14,486	14,212	13,841	1,070	1,241	1,524	6.9	8.0	9.9
Clearwater	2,947	2,778	2,827	747	811	905	20.2	22.6	24.2
Hubbard	5,930	5,656	5,550	646	706	879	9.8	11.1	13.7
Lake of Woods	1,701	1,652	1,485	124	148	187	6.8	8.2	11.2
Mahnomen	2,127	2,087	2,018	238	261	301	10.1	11.1	13.0
REGION 4	89,499	86,571	84,895	6,397	7,284	8,390	6.7	7.8	9.0
Becker	12,680	12,289	11,718	1,267	1,404	1,508	9.1	10.3	11.4
Clay	24,421	24,040	23,410	1,313	1,488	1,805	5.1	5.8	7.2
Douglas	14,205	13,711	13,380	777	951	1,082	5.2	6.5	7.5
Grant	2,601	2,495	2,450	226	261	308	8.0	9.5	11.2
Otter Tail	21,496	20,691	20,561	1,887	2,178	2,415	8.1	9.5	10.5
Pope	4,084	3,896	3,765	352	412	423	7.9	9.6	10.1
Stevens	5,017	4,617	4,843	235	253	321	4.5	5.2	6.2
Traverse	1,919	1,852	1,812	136	150	197	6.6	7.5	9.8
Wilkin	3,076	2,980	2,956	204	187	331	6.2	5.9	10.1
REGION 5	51,992	50,207	49,089	4,900	5,665	6,645	8.6	10.1	11.9
Cass	7,043	6,786	6,655	936	1,086	1,284	11.7	13.8	16.2
Crow Wing	18,383	17,888	17,640	1,444	1,702	2,085	7.3	8.7	10.6
Morrison	12,371	11,841	11,647	1,235	1,441	1,574	9.1	10.8	11.9
Todd	9,705	9,383	8,947	889	989	1,156	8.4	9.5	11.4
Wadena	4,490	4,309	4,200	396	447	546	8.1	9.4	11.5
REGION 6E	50,076	48,512	46,545	3,077	3,571	4,597	5.8	6.9	9.0
Kandiyohi	17,737	17,285	16,551	971	1,153	1,475	5.2	6.3	8.2
McLeod	15,933	15,462	14,798	731	839	1,012	4.4	5.1	6.4
Meeker	7,979	7,604	7,375	747	882	1,057	8.6	10.4	12.5
Renville	8,427	8,161	7,821	628	697	1,053	6.9	7.9	11.9
REGION 7E	47,343	46,035	44,836	4,266	5,271	5,802	8.3	10.3	11.5
Chisago	13,412	13,231	12,940	1,181	1,416	1,601	8.1	9.7	11.0
Isanti	11,566	11,411	11,159	733	969	1,134	6.0	7.8	9.2
Kanabec	5,238	4,955	4,936	619	771	740	10.6	13.5	13.0
Mille Lacs	8,476	8,117	7,628	697	846	989	7.6	9.4	11.5
Pine	8,651	8,321	8,173	1,036	1,269	1,338	10.7	13.2	14.1
REGION 7W	119,909	118,872	112,914	7,760	9,000	9,735	6.1	7.0	7.9
Benton	14,021	13,923	13,092	891	947	1,129	6.0	6.4	7.9
Sherburne	16,831	16,713	15,716	1,202	1,469	1,518	6.7	8.1	8.8
Stearns	58,436	58,027	54,563	3,258	3,747	4,190	5.3	6.1	7.1
Wright	30,621	30,209	29543	2,409	2,837	2898	7.3	8.6	8.9

* Benton, Stearns, and Sherburne counties

Note: Add employment and unemployment to calculate civilian labor force.

St. Cloud Nonfarm Wage & Salary Employment

INDUSTRY	EMPLOYMENT			PERCENT CHANGE FROM	
	Mar. 1988	Feb. 1988	Mar. 1987	Month Ago	Year Ago
Total Nonagricultural Wage & Salary	71,019	71,790	67,469	-1.1	5.2
Total Manufacturing	12,255	12,379	11,640	-1.0	5.3
Durable Goods	6,883	6,954	6,623	-1.0	3.9
Nondurable Goods	5,372	5,425	5,017	-1.0	7.1
Total Nonmanufacturing	58,764	59,411	55,829	-1.1	5.3
Construction & Mining	3,378	3,258	2,867	3.7	17.8
Transp., Comm., & Public Util.	3,430	3,385	3,375	1.3	1.6
Total Trade	21,898	21,938	20,583	-0.2	6.4
Wholesale Trade	3,487	3,477	3,319	0.3	5.1
Retail Trade	18,411	18,461	17,264	-0.3	6.6
Finan., Insur., & Real Estate	2,400	2,375	2,366	1.1	1.4
Total Services	14,540	14,519	14,003	0.1	3.8
Health Services	5,160	5,139	4,784	0.4	7.9
Other Services	9,380	9,380	9,219	0.0	1.7
Government	13,118	13,936	12,635	-5.9	3.8

By Ron Daws

Unemployment Drops, Employment Rises Across Central And Northwest Minnesota

Even allowing for errors associated with the labor force estimates, it is evident that the entire state's economy improved in March. In the St. Cloud MSA, for example, there were roughly 5,900 new jobs over the year, and nearly 1,500 fewer jobless workers. Thus, the jobless rate dropped from 7.6 percent last March to 5.7 percent this March. That was also down from February's 6.5 percent. The jobless rate often drops between February and March. This decline was exceptional. Not since March 1970's 5.4 percent has the March rate been lower.

Nonfarm payroll employment in the MSA dropped 1.1 percent between February and March, but still rose by 5.2 percent over the year. Employment usually rises slightly between February and March, so employers may have been paring back their payrolls after last month's huge employment jump. This is probable because every industry except government and construction and mining remained within about a percent of February's job level. Government's employment dropped by nearly six percent basically because part-time students at the state university were on spring break.

Compared with last March, however, all industries increased their payrolls to net the MSA 3,550 or 5.2 percent more jobs. The largest gainers over last year were construction and mining (up 17.8%), health services (up 7.9%), nondurable goods manufacturing (up 7.1%) and retail trade (up 6.8%). Combined, these industries accounted for 2,389 new jobs, over two-thirds of the nonfarm payroll job increase.

In summary, although the MSA's job level remained virtually static over the month (if one discounts the temporary drop in university student jobs), employment remained at an all-time high. Conversely, unemployment was low enough that employers often had trouble filling certain jobs.

Northeast Minnesota

By Ron Daws

Statistics Camouflage Whether Employment Is Growing Or Declining In Duluth

According to official labor force estimates there were more jobs in Duluth this March than during last year. Preliminary estimates for March show that employment increased by 1,260 in Duluth. Nonfarm payroll data, however, show that for the fifth consecutive month Duluth's nonfarm payroll employment has been below the year-ago level. During each of the first three months of 1988 nonfarm jobs were consistently down by 1.5 percent.

Since February, the number of nonfarm payroll jobs has remained virtually static. Except for construction, which lost 6.5 percent of its jobs over the month, employment in every other major industry category deviated by less than one percent.

Over the year, construction employment dropped to less than half of what it was during March 1987. But last year there was considerable building activity, especially related to the new and now essentially completed paper mill. Although construction employment was down from March 1987, it was 20 percent higher than during March 1986. Additionally, wholesale trade lost 86 jobs for a 5.1 percent decline, and durable goods manufacturing lost 72 jobs, a 4.4 percent drop. Health services, in generating 288 jobs, employed 5.6 percent more workers.

Of Region 3's areas, all had fewer jobless workers in March than during February or March of 1987. Unemployment consistantly drops in the spring, but this year the drop was larger than usual. Compared to last year, unemployment was down by a large margin. If the labor force estimates are reasonably accurate, unemployment has dropped faster than jobs have been generated in Region 3, because over the year the labor force has shrunk by 1,779 workers, or 1.3 percent. It may be that many of the unemployed residing in Region 3 over the last year have left to seek jobs elsewhere.

Labor Force Estimates

AREA	EMPLOYMENT			UNEMPLOYMENT			UNEMP. RATE		
	Mar. 1988	Feb. 1988	Mar. 1987	Mar. 1988	Feb. 1988	Mar. 1987	Mar. 1988	Feb. 1988	Mar. 1987
REGION 3	124,280	121,918	119,954	10,855	12,535	16,960	8.0	9.3	12.4
Aitkin	4,563	4,419	4,402	655	747	876	12.6	14.5	16.6
Carlton	11,495	11,064	10,775	1,091	1,275	1,244	8.7	10.3	10.4
Cook	2,078	2,049	2,051	193	215	291	8.5	9.5	12.4
Itasca	15,148	15,021	14,961	1,528	1,735	2,330	9.2	10.4	13.5
Koochiching	6,863	6,718	6,695	479	569	714	6.5	7.8	9.6
Lake	3,220	3,156	3,076	534	557	1,078	14.2	15.0	26.0
St. Louis	80,913	79,491	77,994	6,375	7,437	10,427	7.3	8.6	11.8
City of Duluth	34,925	34,311	33,665	2,336	2,690	2,755	6.3	7.3	7.6
Balance St. Louis	45,988	45,180	44,329	4,039	4,747	7,672	8.1	9.5	14.8

Note: Add employment and unemployment to calculate civilian labor force.

Duluth And Duluth-Superior Nonfarm Wage & Salary Employment

INDUSTRY	DULUTH EMPLOYMENT			PERCENT CHANGE		DULUTH-SUPERIOR EMPLOYMENT			PERCENT CHANGE	
	Mar. 1988	Feb. 1988	Mar. 1987	Mo. Ago	Yr. Ago	Mar. 1988	Feb. 1988	Mar. 1987	Mo. Ago	Yr. Ago
Total Nonag. Wage & Salary	42,979	42,962	43,636	0.0	-1.5	87,413	87,192	85,663	0.3	2.0
Total Manufacturing	3,866	3,853	3,861	0.3	0.1	7,678	7,636	7,129	0.6	7.7
Durable Goods	1,563	1,550	1,635	0.8	-4.4	4,127	4,116	3,850	0.3	7.2
Nondurable Goods	2,303	2,303	2,226	0.0	3.5	3,551	3,520	3,279	0.9	8.3
Total Nonmanufacturing	39,113	39,109	39,775	0.0	-1.7	79,735	79,556	78,534	0.2	1.5
Construction	1,096	1,172	2,263	-6.5	-51.6	2,346	2,547	3,524	-7.9	-33.4
Transp., Comm., Pub. Util.	2,640	2,653	2,575	-0.5	2.5	5,578	5,549	5,666	0.5	-1.6
Total Trade	10,877	10,905	10,719	-0.3	1.5	21,325	21,253	21,233	0.3	0.4
Wholesale Trade	1,598	1,586	1,684	0.8	-5.1	3,362	3,347	3,474	0.4	-3.2
Retail Trade	9,279	9,319	9,035	-0.4	2.7	17,963	17,906	17,759	0.3	1.1
Finan., Insur., Real Est.	1,813	1,812	1,757	0.1	3.2	3,141	3,115	3,045	0.8	3.2
Services, Mining, & Misc.	12,167	12,076	11,749	0.8	3.6	24,960	24,690	22,937	1.1	8.8
Health Services	5,469	5,464	5,181	0.1	5.6	8,785	8,768	8,379	0.2	4.8
Other Services	5,798	5,720	5,709	1.4	1.6	10,067	9,986	10,103	0.8	-0.4
Government	10,520	10,491	10,712	0.3	-1.8	22,385	22,402	22,129	-0.1	1.2

Southern Minnesota

By Ron Daws

Labor Force Estimates

AREA	EMPLOYMENT			UNEMPLOYMENT			UNEMP. RATE		
	Mar. 1988	Feb. 1988	Mar. 1987	Mar. 1988	Feb. 1988	Mar. 1987	Mar. 1988	Feb. 1988	Mar. 1987
REGION 6W	22,731	21,926	21,637	1,519	1,759	2,100	6.3	7.4	8.8
Big Stone	2,680	2,579	2,585	198	224	275	6.9	8.0	9.6
Chippewa	6,249	6,052	6,004	468	519	561	7.0	7.9	8.5
Lac Qui Parle	3,904	3,766	3,708	169	202	225	4.1	5.1	5.7
Swift	4,575	4,405	4,282	313	375	505	6.4	7.8	10.5
Yellow Medicine	5,323	5,124	5,058	371	439	534	6.5	7.9	9.5
REGION 8	55,869	54,161	52,761	3,460	3,574	4,425	5.8	6.2	7.7
Cottonwood	6,090	5,864	5,652	312	372	461	4.9	6.0	7.5
Jackson	4,847	4,600	4,911	364	416	564	7.0	8.3	10.3
Lincoln	2,998	2,884	2,809	223	186	269	6.9	6.1	8.7
Lyon	11,098	10,968	10,736	873	757	949	7.3	6.5	8.1
Murray	4,268	4,157	3,965	400	416	445	8.6	9.1	10.1
Nobles	9,798	9,548	9,122	528	565	657	5.1	5.6	6.7
Pipestone	5,245	4,978	4,679	176	200	258	3.2	3.9	5.2
Redwood	7,178	6,953	6,805	387	451	580	5.1	6.1	7.9
Rock	4,347	4,209	4,082	197	211	242	4.3	4.8	5.6
REGION 9	101,330	98,606	97,672	5,539	6,143	8,041	5.2	5.9	7.6
Blue Earth	27,124	26,375	26,294	1,006	1,106	1,420	3.6	4.0	5.1
Brown	12,476	12,074	12,022	773	860	1,046	5.8	6.6	8.0
Faribault	7,409	7,134	7,259	477	514	689	6.0	6.7	8.7
Le Sueur	9,757	9,536	9,459	865	977	1,190	8.1	9.3	11.2
Martin	10,896	10,674	10,423	719	818	1,095	6.2	7.1	9.5
Nicollet	13,906	13,522	13,480	505	612	781	3.5	4.3	5.5
Sibley	5,798	5,559	5,508	506	568	676	8.0	9.3	10.9
Waseca	8,617	8,350	8,188	470	461	824	5.2	5.1	9.1
Watonwan	5,347	5,182	5,039	218	227	320	3.9	4.2	6.0
REGION 10	204,330	198,900	194,646	9,705	11,288	14,564	4.5	5.4	7.0
Dodge	6,939	6,504	6,660	531	627	793	7.1	8.8	10.6
Fillmore	9,359	9,066	8,772	734	871	879	7.3	8.8	9.1
Freeborn	16,065	15,689	15,335	667	759	1,278	4.0	4.6	7.7
Goodhue	19,419	18,856	18,501	900	1,087	1,254	4.4	5.5	6.3
Houston	7,938	7,663	7,794	544	625	625	6.4	7.5	7.4
Mower	16,033	15,568	15,740	775	901	1,460	4.6	5.5	8.5
Olmsted	55,848	54,826	53,456	1,891	2,173	2,723	3.3	3.8	4.8
Rice	24,873	24,271	24,038	1,255	1,459	1,923	4.8	5.7	7.4
Steele	15,166	14,599	13,936	607	736	1,056	3.8	4.8	7.0
Wabasha	7,816	7,419	7,316	548	652	784	6.6	8.1	9.7
Winona	24,874	24,439	23,098	1,253	1,398	1,789	4.8	5.4	7.2
Rochester City	34,534	33,902	33,055	1,229	1,424	1,824	3.4	4.0	5.2

Note: Add employment and unemployment to calculate civilian labor force.

Rochester MSA Nonfarn Wage & Salary Employment

INDUSTRY	EMPLOYMENT			PERCENT CHANGE FROM	
	Mar. 1988	Feb. 1988	Mar. 1987	Month Ago	Year Ago
Total Nonagricultural Wage & Salary	56,945	56,789	55,294	0.3	3.0
Total Manufacturing	10,763	10,713	10,293	0.5	4.6
Durable Goods	9,034	9,034	8,649	0.0	4.5
Nondurable Goods	1,729	1,679	1,644	3.0	5.2
Total Nonmanufacturing	46,182	46,076	45,001	0.2	2.6
Construction & Mining	1,520	1,470	1,410	3.4	7.8
Transp., Comm., & Public Util.	1,706	1,717	1,625	-0.6	5.0
Total Trade	11,097	11,137	11,339	-0.4	-2.1
Wholesale Trade	1,208	1,208	1,172	0.0	3.1
Retail Trade	9,889	9,929	10,167	-0.4	-2.7
Finan., Insur., & Real Estate	1,590	1,585	1,487	0.3	6.9
Total Services	24,046	24,021	22,998	0.1	4.6
Health Services	17,017	16,978	16,172	0.2	5.2
Other Services	7,029	7,043	6,826	-0.2	3.0
Government	6,223	6,146	6,142	1.3	1.3

Southern Minnesota Counties Gain Employment Over The Month; Only One County Loses Jobs Over The Year

Employment rose throughout the southern part of the state between March and February. This was expected because warming temperatures spur job expansion, especially in construction.

All of Southern Minnesota shared in the state's unemployment decline over the month and year. In the Rochester MSA (Olmsted county), for example, the unemployment rate dropped to 3.3 percent, one of the lowest rates ever. A year ago the rate was 4.8 percent.

Most significantly, employment increased over the year. Nearly all counties shared in the creation of some 17,000 jobs. Only in Jackson county, where an electronics plant closed last year, was the number of jobs down.

Last month we said that the economy of Southern Minnesota got off to a rolling start. In the Rochester MSA especially, it is still rolling, but the MSA's increase in the number of jobs over 1987 is diminishing. From a 4.3 percent January to January employment increase (2,324 jobs), the yearly increase dropped to 3.7 percent in February, and to 3.0 percent in March. When nonfarm payroll employment changed little over the month (as is usually the case), the over-the-year increase in jobs was whittled down to 1,615.

Generating the most jobs over the year (845) was health services in growing by 5.2 percent. Construction and mining grew even faster at 7.8 percent, but generated 110 jobs. Manufacturing employment also grew strongly over the year at 4.6 percent. The only industry to lose workers over the year was the relatively large retail trade sector which eliminated 278 jobs, a 2.7 percent decrease.

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Minnesota Labor Market Review

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Selected Minnesota Program Statistics

Distribution of Insured Unemployed by Industry and Occupation, March 1988

Industry Attachment	Number	Percent of Total	Percent */ Long-Term Unemployed	Women as Percent of Total
TOTAL, ALL INDUSTRIES	53,453	100.0	25.5	20.7
Ag., For., Fish.	1,814	3.4	43.0	9.5
Mining	960	1.8	26.4	4.2
Construction	22,286	41.7	23.7	2.7
Manufacturing	9,729	18.2	24.7	33.3
Public Utilities	2,390	4.5	25.5	12.3
Wholesale Trade	2,596	4.9	24.4	24.3
Retail Trade	4,317	8.1	23.8	41.4
Fin., Ins., Re. Est.	1,676	3.1	33.3	55.6
Services	6,165	11.5	27.6	47.9
Public Admin.	860	1.6	36.4	28.3
Info. Not Available	660	1.2	2.5	26.2
Occupational Attachment				
TOTAL, ALL OCCUPATIONS	53,453	100.0	25.5	20.7
Prof., Tech., Mgr.	5,899	11.0	28.6	36.3
Clerical	3,814	7.1	27.1	80.6
Sales	1,586	3.0	27.9	36.2
Services	2,508	4.7	27.7	56.9
Farm, For., Fish.	1,604	3.0	46.3	9.2
Processing	2,177	4.1	17.8	43.3
Machine Trades	2,094	3.9	24.2	11.4
Benchwork	2,684	5.0	24.8	54.0
Structural Work	22,399	41.9	22.6	1.5
Misc., and INA	8,688	16.3	27.5	8.3

Distribution of Insured Unemployed, by Age and Sex, March 1988

Age Groups	Number	Percent Distribution: Men of Totals	Men of Men	Women of Women
TOTALS	53,453	79.3	100.0	100.0
Under 45	40,125	80.2	75.9	71.9
Under25	7,153	80.3	13.5	12.7
25-34	20,280	81.0	38.8	34.8
35-44	12,692	78.7	23.6	24.4
45 and over	13,328	76.6	24.1	28.1
45-54	7,873	77.1	14.3	16.3
55 and over	5,455	76.0	9.8	11.8

Experienced Supply/Job Openings Demand **/

Occupational Attachment	Applicants (Supply) Mar. 1988	Job Openings (Demand) Mar. 1988	Supply/Demand Ratio: Mar. 1988	Mar. 1987
TOTAL, ALL OCCUPATIONS	67,433	18,895	3.6	3.1
Prof., Tech., Mgr.	10,870	2,020	5.4	4.7
Clerical	11,389	3,111	3.7	3.1
Sales	4,100	2,560	1.6	1.0
Services	7,770	5,836	1.3	1.5
Farm, For., Fish.	1,778	568	3.1	3.0
Processing	1,250	675	1.9	3.2
Machine Trades	4,233	791	5.4	6.8
Benchwork	4,359	1,109	3.9	6.5
Structural Work	11,400	740	15.4	10.5
Misc., and INA	10,284	1,485	6.9	4.9

*/ Long-term unemployed refers to unemployment insurance claimants whose current spell of unemployment has lasted 15 weeks or longer.

**/ Inexperienced and improperly coded job applicants are not included in this table.